

# WILL MARCH on FLORIDA

REMNANTS OF  
The GRAY ARMY  
JACKSONVILLE, FLA. MAY 6, 7, 8.

**C**ONFEDERATE veterans throughout the south are preparing for their 24th annual march to the city that was fortunate in securing their reunion. This year they meet at Jacksonville, the wonderfully enterprising metropolis of Florida. The veterans and their descendants are looking forward to this reunion with increased interest, because it is their first visit in a body to Florida. Every other southern state has entertained the Confederate veterans, some of them as many as three times. Florida has long nursed an ambition to entertain them, and last year at Chattanooga Jacksonville won the fight for the reunion of this year after a sharp contest with other enterprising cities.

The entire state entered actively into the contest at Chattanooga, and the reunion is regarded as an honor to Florida. Governor Park Trammell, one of the youngest chief executives of the country, as well as one of the most accomplished, said recently in a signed statement that he esteemed it one of the most pleasing and gratifying events of his administration of the office of governor of Florida to bid the veterans of the Confederacy, from all sections, welcome "as the guests of the warm hearted people of this great state."

Having secured the reunion, the people, not only of Jacksonville, but of the whole state of Florida, are bending their best energies to make the Jacksonville meeting one of the largest and most pleasant that the veterans and their friends have ever enjoyed.

Jacksonville is the chief city of Florida. It is situated on the St. Johns river at the entrance to the famous Florida East Coast, twenty-seven miles from the Atlantic ocean, where the St. Johns finds its outlet. The territory is rich in historic interest. Spaniard and Frenchman contended for the territory nearly four hundred years ago, and evidences of their bloody struggles for the mastery are found below Jacksonville along the banks of the St. Johns.

The city, however, that is to entertain the Confederates this year is modern. Jacksonville has a population of about 85,000. It has been built almost entirely since the war. The town was occupied four times by the Union army during the conflict. President Lincoln conceived the idea of snatching Florida from the Confederates, and sent a force to Jacksonville to accomplish that end. Many skirmishes between the Confederates and Union forces occurred, but the battle that decided the issue was fought at Olustee, sixty miles west of Jacksonville. The Union force, consisting of some 6,000 men, was ordered to penetrate into the heart of the state. This force was met at Olustee by Gen. Finnegan and Gen. Colquitt, commanding 1,500 Confederates, and defeated. The Union force returned to Jacksonville and evacuated the town.

Florida holds in affection the

living and dead of its Confederate soldiers. The state pays out the handsome total of \$750,000 per annum in ex-Confederate pensions. The per capita payment to ex-Confederate pensioners averages \$122, a larger per capita average than any other southern state. In addition to this benefaction, the state maintains homes for ex-Confederates. Throughout the state handsome Confederate monuments have been erected by public and private means.

A Confederate reunion amid such environments appeals to the whole south. Being the first reunion held in the state, it is the first opportunity that the veterans and their friends have had to see Florida at a nominal cost. Railroads have granted a rate of one cent a mile on account of the reunion, and interest is keen in the meeting in all southern centers. An attendance of from 100,000 to 150,000 is confidently anticipated by the Jacksonville Reunion Association.

Arrangements are being made on a most elaborate scale to entertain the visitors. A camp will be located in one of Jacksonville's beautiful public parks for the entertainment of 5,000 veterans at the expense of the city. These old men belong to the class who are not financially able to bear their own expenses while attending the reunion. They come largely from the Confederate Soldiers' Homes of the southern states.

Three parades will be given through the streets of Jacksonville during the reunion. The Sons of Confederate Veterans, who hold their reunion here May 5-8 inclusive, will be in parade May 6. The following day a parade for the sponsors and maids of honor

will be arranged. This parade will be in automobiles, decorated in red and white roses, typifying the Confederate colors. It will be one of the most dazzling spectacles ever witnessed in the southern states. The last parade of the reunion will be given May 7, when the Confederate veterans will pass in review.

Confident of its ability to handle a Confederate reunion in all of its various details, Jacksonville, a city with a skyline, a water front and a spirit that does things, extends a cordial welcome to the ex-Confederates and their descendants to enjoy Florida hospitality and see the state's many wonders, promising that everything possible will be done to make their visit pleasant and instructive. The broad St. Johns river, the Atlantic ocean, Florida forests and flowers, a modern, progressive city, and a citizenship typical of the New South, but loyal to the ideals of the old, are a few of the attractions that the visitor will enjoy.

Florida realizes that the gray line grows thinner each year; that the time is fast approaching when the survivors who passed through the storm of lead and flame at Gettysburg, or engaged in the death grapple at Chickamauga, and a hundred other battlefields, will be summoned to their last reunion. As the line marches on Jacksonville for its 24th annual reunion, it will be given a royal welcome and the people of the whole state will salute with love and reverence the survivors of one of the greatest armies the world ever saw.

